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FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO  
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA  
NEW YORK NY 10112

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**OFFICE OF PETITIONS**

In re Application of :  
Masaki Suzui : DECISION ON PETITION TO  
Application No. 10/729,945 : WITHDRAW HOLDING OF  
Filed: 12/09/2003 : ABANDONMENT  
Attorney Docket Number: :  
00862.023357. :

This is a decision on the petition filed on 16 November, 2006, to withdraw the holding of abandonment in the above-identified application.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The application was held abandoned for failure to timely respond to the final Office action mailed on 28 February, 2006, which set a three (3) month shortened statutory period for reply. No extensions of the time for reply in accordance with 37 CFR 1.136(a) were obtained. Notice of Abandonment was mailed on 4 October, 2006.

Petitioner asserts that the final Office action was never received.

In the absence of any irregularity in the mailing of the final Office action, there is a strong presumption that the final Office action was properly mailed to practitioner at the address of record. This presumption may be overcome by a showing that the final Office action was not in fact received. The showing required to establish the failure to receive an Office communication must include a statement from the practitioner stating that the Office communication was not received by the practitioner and attesting to the fact that a search of the file jacket and docket records indicates that the Office action was not received. A copy of the docket record where the non-received

Office action would have been entered had it been received and docketed must be attached to and referenced in practitioner's statement. See "Withdrawing the Holding of Abandonment When Office Actions Are Not Received" 1156 Official Gazette 53 (November 16, 1993) and M.P.E.P. § 711.03(c). The showing outlined above may not be sufficient if there are circumstances that point to a conclusion that the final Office action may have been lost after receipt rather than a conclusion that the final Office action was lost in the mail.

A review of the record indicates that the Office action was properly mailed to the petitioners at the correspondence address of record at the time of mailing. Thus, there was no irregularity in mailing the Office action on the part of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

In support of the petition, the petition includes a statement by registered patent attorney Gregory S. Weaver, stating that a search of the file jacket of the above-identified case and of the docket record indicates that the Office Action was not received. A copy of the docket report is referenced in the petition and enclosed therewith.

The petitioner has made a sufficient showing of nonreceipt of the Office action. Accordingly, the Notice of Abandonment is hereby vacated and the holding of abandonment withdrawn.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The application file is being referred to Technology Center 2800 technical support staff for remailing of the Office action mailed 28 February, 2006. The period for reply will be reset from the mailing date thereof.

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3231.



Douglas I. Wood  
Senior Petitions Attorney  
Office of Petitions